Distribution of subsidy to the farmers

@3579. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are giving fertilizer subsidy of Rs. 6500 crores for the financial year 1992-93; and

(b) if so, whether Government have worked out any strategy for distribution of subsidy to the farmers since it was taken by the fertilizer units depriving the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The total requirements of subsidy in the current year, including the obligations for the current year and carry over from the previous year, is likely to be Rs. 6577 crores. However, the allocation made in the budget for 1992-93 at this stage is Rs. 5000 crores.

(b) Subsidy is paid by the Government on controlled fertilizers with a view to bringing down prices to be paid by the farmers. Under the retention price-cum-subsidy scheme the subsidy is routed through the manufactures to compensate them for lower realisation in the form of notified prices as compared to their cost of production as assessed by the Government. After decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, subsidy on these fertilizers is also being currently paid to the farmers through the state Governments in order to reduce the net price payable by the farmers.

@Previously Unstarred Question 2853, transferred from 11th December, 1992.

Movement of Molasses in the country

@@3580. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lift the inter-state restrictions on the movement of Molasses in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) A final decision is yet to be taken.

Revival of Sick Fertiliser Units

3581. SHRI ASHIS SEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total foreign exchange requirement to import fertilizers during one cultivation season;

(b) what is the total amount required to revive sick fertiliser units in the country; and

(c) how much employment can be generated in the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The planning for import of fertilizers is done for an agricultural/financial year. It is therefore not possible to furnish the foreign exchange requirement for one cultivation season. During 1991-92, various fertilizers were imported at a total cost and freight value of Rs. 1934.19 crores.

(b) An outlay of Rs. 227 crores for M/s Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) and Rs. 430 crores for M/s Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) has been included for 8th Five Year Plan for various schemes including revamping and rehabilitation of their units. Actual implementation of the revamping measures will however depend on the technical and the financial viability of the

@@Previously Unstarred Question 2862, transferred from 11th December, 1992.